

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 05162 281725Z

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ACTION EB-11

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INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 DOTE-00 SS-20 NSC-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7184

UNCLAS PARIS 5162

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : ETRN , FR

SUBJECT : AIRLINES MOVE TO CDG AIRPORT

REF : PARIS 5116

1. RE PARA 2 REFTTEL, SPATER OF TWA HAS CALLED US BACK INDICATING THAT AFTER FURTHER STUDY HE NOW HAS SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT ADEQUACY OF "IMPROVEMENTS" GRIMAUD HAS ANNOUNCED. US CARRIERS STILL NOT WELL SERVED BY CONNECTING SERVICES. SPATER COMPARES THIS SITUATION WITH EXCELLENT CONNECTIONS AIR FRANCE WILL CONTINUE TO ENJOY AT ORLY. HE NOTES THAT AIR FRANCE AND AIR INTER DOMESTIC FLIGHTS THAT WOULD PROVIDE EXCELLENT CONNECTIONS FOR BOTH TWA AND PANAM WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE FROM ORLY AND HE FAILS SEE WHY THESE FLIGHTS COULD NOT OPERATE INSTEAD FROM CDG. NOTWITHSTANDING GRIMAUD'S ARGUMENT RE WEEKEND FLIGHTS, SPATER NOTES THAT DAILY FLIGHTS INCLUDING WEEKENDS WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE TO PROVINCES FROM ORLY AND THUS TO AIR FRANCE'S BENEFIT, AND HE WONDERS WHY THESE DAILY (SEVEN DAYS A WEEK) FLIGHTS COULD NOT INSTEAD OPERATE FROM CDG AND DAILY EXCEPT SATURDAY AND/OR SUNDAY FLIGHTS OPERATE FROM ORLY.

2. SPATER WAS ALSO PIQUED AT TWA'S INABILITY OBTAIN

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PAGE 02 PARIS 05162 281725Z

CONFIRMATION FROM AIR FRANCE RESERVATIONS STAFF OF

"IM PROVED" FLIGHTS WHICH GRIMAUD HAD ANNOUNCED. HE STRESSED THAT EVERY DAY TWA WAS NOT IN POSSESSION OF DATA PERMITTING TICKETING TO AND FROM THESE PROVINCIAL POINTS MEANT LOST BUSINESS. DURING OUR PHONE CONVERSATION SPATER WAS HANDED COPY OF TELEX FROM PARIS AIRPORT AUTHORITY SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH RAUSCHENPLAT HAD RECEIVED EARLIER (PARA 3 REFTEL). QUICK PERUSAL CONFIRMED NEW CONNECTIONS NOT MUCH OF AN IMPROVEMENT, E.G. NICE ARRIVAL WAS TOO EARLY. MOREOVER, PARIS AIRPORT AUTHORITY TELEX INDICATES NICE SERVICE WILL BE "SPECIAL FLIGHT" OPERATED FOR PERIOD MARCH 13-20 WITH NO INDICATION GIVEN OF SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED AFTER MARCH 20.

3. SPATER, LIKE RAUSCHENPLAT, DEPLORED HIT-AND-MISS, DISJOINTED MANNER IN WHICH CONNECTING SERVICES PROBLEM CONTINUES TO BE HANDLED AT FRENCH END. HE IS BEGINNING TO WONDER WHETHER FRENCH ARE NOT PULLING A "SNOW JOB" ON INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS. HE WAS THEREFORE INCLINED RESPOND IMMEDIATELY TO GRIMAUD THAT "IMPROVED" CONNECTING SERVICES WERE STILL UNSATISFACTORY TO TWA BUT SAID WOULD NOT DO SO IF THAT WOULD RISK COMPLICATING RCAA'S MEETING WITH GRIMAUD MARCH 1. WE INFORMED HIM THAT, ON CONTRARY, PROMPT REPLY ALONG THOSE LINES FROM TWA WOULD KEEP PRESSURE ON GRIMAUD AND WOULD BE HELPFUL. SPATER WILL THEREFORE SEND MESSAGE.

4. IN ORDER COMPLETE OUR DREARY INVENTORY OF WAYS IN WHICH CDG PLANNING IS BEING MISMANAGED, WE MIGHT NOTE THAT AIR FRANCE POCKET TIMETABLE JUST PUBLISHED HAS BANNER ACROSS COVER ANNOUNCING OPENING OF CDG AIRPORT ON MARCH 20 (SIC) AND INDICATING THAT CDG DEPARTURES ARE DESIGNATED IN TIMETABLE BY "G", WHICH DESIGNATION, OF COURSE, IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND FOR ANY AF FLIGHTS. PARIS AIRPORT AUTHORITY POCKET TIMETABLE SHOWING SCHEDULE OF ALL COMPANIES SERVING PARIS CONTAINS UNBOUND INSERT LISTING COMPANIES THAT SHOULD BE OPERATING FROM CDG AS OF MARCH 13 BUT INDICATES THAT SINCE DETAILED INFO NOT AVAILABLE WHEN TIMETABLE WENT TO PRESS TRAVELERS SHOULD CONSULT TRAVEL AGENCY

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PAGE 03 PARIS 05162 281725Z

OR AIRLINE TO LEARN FROM WHICH PARIS AIRPORT THEY WILL BE DEPARTING.STONE

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